

Subject: Watershed Planning

Background: In several important tributaries and watersheds, there is a need for long-term restoration planning to develop restoration projects to be implemented. In areas where locally based planning efforts have identified restoration projects, there appears to be a greater public acceptance because the projects can be seen in context and have been designed in a cooperative manner. These locally-led planning processes should include participation by a diverse stakeholder group (with balanced representation from federal, state, and local levels) to serve as a filter for the many existing restoration and mitigation programs and to increase coordination of activity in the watershed.

For downstream issues, different tributaries can contribute different solutions. Without coordination among these tributaries, local watershed planning might prove fragmented or inadequate to meet valley-wide or landscape-level needs.

Proposed Action: Promote locally-led efforts to develop comprehensive restoration plans for key tributaries of the Central Valley and Bay-Delta watershed. Fund the development and implementation of restoration projects or plans by new or existing watershed groups.

Geographic Area: Important tributaries of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River.

Recommend Funding: Funding should range from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000.

Coordination: Work with county planning departments and commissions, local resource conservation and irrigation districts, local environmental groups, landowners, and other important interests to build support for comprehensive planning supported by diverse and balanced interests.

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